



H.Res. 1369 – Recognizing nongovernmental organizations working to bring just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1369 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) on July 23, 2008. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered the resolution to be reported by unanimous consent on July 24, 2008.

H.Res. 1369 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 30, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1369 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the vital role of nongovernmental organizations in peace-building efforts between Israel and Palestinians, and encourages them to remain steadfast in their commitment to nonviolence, recognition of Israel's right to exist, dedication to achieving a two-state solution, and work toward building trust and cooperation between the two peoples;
- Applauds the tireless work of these individuals and nongovernmental organizations, and urges them to continue their efforts;
- Acknowledges and encourages the important efforts and support that these nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, and individuals committed to peace and nonviolence contribute to these initiatives;
- Affirms the importance of United States support to nongovernmental organizations that provide humanitarian aid and work for democracy, human rights, and peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians; and
- Urges Israeli and Palestinian leaders to embrace the spirit of nongovernmental peace builders toward achieving a just and lasting peace.

BACKGROUND

Several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals have worked for decades to address humanitarian issues and further peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States currently provides assistance to NGOs which provide for basic human needs, protect human freedoms, promote human rights and seek peaceful reconciliation. However, no U.S. assistance may knowingly benefit any organization with terrorist ties.

Examples of NGOs active in furthering peace and reconciliation in the Middle East include the Center for Peace and Security in the Middle East, Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation, Seeds of Peace, Palestinian Peace Coalition, and the Interfaith Encounter Association. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ongoing dispute between the state of Israel and the Palestinians, involving land claims and national identities. Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have lost their lives in the decades-long conflict.

STAFF CONTACT

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